HA-1484 1885

Archer House 636 Rock Spring Bel Air private

This house is one of the most intriguing that Jacob Bull built in Town, its charm due to the steep slope of its roof and a deliciously sly eyebrow dormer. The house looks rather like a bungalow with a gable stuck on it. The wooden shingle siding, the eyebrow dormer, the Queen Anne windows and entrance are almost certainly late 1890's additions.

The house was built by Edward Ferry, a Bel Air entrepreneur who was at one time a hotel-keeper, a liquor store owner, a speculative builder, the owner of a lumber yard, and a wholesale musical instrument salesman. Marvelously mobile, 19th century men. It was the home of the Stevenson Archer family after Archer was sent to jail for embezzlement and they were forced to leave "Hazel Dell".

ADDENDA (May 1990)

Archer House 636 Rock Spring Avenue HA-1484

Paragraph 3

1) Change second sentence to read: "It is composed of double doors having one rectangular panel over one square panel."

Paragraph 5

1) Change the fourth sentence to read: "The wide side gable has two small casement windows, one over top of the other."

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME				
ніsтопіс Archer House				
AND/OR COMMON				
Wysong House				
2 LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
636 Rock Sprin				
Bel Air			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
		VICINITY DF	CDUNTY	
state Maryland		Harford		
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
NAME Enamais Nysans	•		Telephone #: 83	0 2270
Francis Wysono	<u> </u>			0-32/8
636 Rock Sprir	na Avenue			
CITY, TOWN	19 / 11		STATE , Z	ip code
Bel Air		VICINITY OF	Maryland	-
FICCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
5 LOCATION	Of ELGILL DESCR	11014	Liber #: 516	
COURTHOUSE.			Folîo #: 523	
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	Harford County	Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	Main Street			
CITY, TOWN	Main Street		STATE	, .
CITY, TOWAR	Bel Air		Maryland_	
DEPRESE		DIO CLIDATENO		<u> </u>
6 KEPKESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SUKVEYS		
TITLE				
DATE				
··		FEDERAL	_STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR	•			
SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	



MARY

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

_EXCELLENT

__FAIR

__RUINS __UNEXPOSED X_ALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story three bay house is at 636 Rock Spring Avenue in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The house is now sided in wooden shingles. The date of construction of the house in the context of Bel Air's architectural history and an examination of the house's end posts and front door surround suggest that the house was originally sided in shiplap or clapboard and the shingles were added later. The Queen Anne details - eyebrow dormer in front, small pane over two pane double hung sash windows, scroll carved balusters on the front porch, and the unique stickwork in the transom and sidelights of the main entrance - were probably added at the same time, probably after 1894 when the Archers bought the place. No house in Town has Queen Anne elements that can be dated much earlier than 1890, and all the houses Edward Ferry built were fairly simple in decoration. The only eyebrow dormer in Town was on George Archer's 1889 Harford National Bank Building. Not one of Jacob Bull's buildings remaining has such a decoration.

As the house now stands, it has a steeply sloped gable roof with its ridge running north and south parallel to the street. The southern two bays project in the second story and have their own gable roof at right angles to the main roof. The north bay has an eyebrow dormer which, in a uniquely humerous way, lights the upstairs bathroom.

The first story front (east) elevation is flat. The entrance is in the north bay. It is composed of double doors having one square panel over one square panel. The transom is as wide as the doors and the sidelights continue up to the same height as the top of the transom. Whimsically disposed mutins divide the transom and sidelights into a pattern that has double X's in the middle and a caret-shaped acute angle on the sides. In the transom the pattern runs horizontally; in the sidelights it runs vertically.

The shed-roofed front (east) porch is carried on chamfered posts and has a scroll sawn balustrade.

The side elevations suggest that the rear shed roofed two story ell was a later addition. There are end posts after the first three bays. The north side shows a window (lighting the stairway) between the first and second stories. The wide side gable has two small windows, one over top of the other. The top one has an eyebrow projection over it. The shingles in the gable are narrower than those on the lower two stories. The south elevation is similar to the north one, but it has a pair of french doors topped by a transom in the east bay. The doors lead to a side porch, roof less and now unused.

The rear (west) elevation is of three bays. The south bay in the second story is blind and over what was formerly an open porch in the first story. A small shed hood protects the back door. Since the shingles on this enclosed porch match the rest of the shingles it was probably enclosed when the house was remodeled, probably in the 1890's. A small four pane casement is between the middle and northern bays on the first story. All major windows have wooden louvered wooden shutters.

The chimney is located in the center of the building. It is turned 90° from the usual chimney plane, so that it sits astride the roof ridge. It is corbelled capped and has a recessed panel on each side. It serves two fireplaces on each floor, all four of them at an angle across the corner of the room. This is the only hint that the Queen Anne elements of this house were original. This leads to the alternate theory that only the shingles were added, and that later than 1890

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	HECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
—PREHISTORIC —1400-1499 —1500-1599 —1600-1699 —1700-1799 X_1800-1899 X_1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—RELIGION —SCIENCE —SCULPTURE —SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN —THEATER —TRANSPORTATION —OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DATES 1885 BLXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX				

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This interesting house on Rock Spring Avenue is important for several reasons. The basic house, stripped of its Queen Anne decoration and its shingles, was designed by Jacob Bull, Bel Air's Master Builder, in about the middle of his career. It is significant as the home of Edward Ferry, who was a man of many interests: lumber, canning warehouses and real estate development. He built at least four houses in the two Dallam's Additions. He seems to have lived in all but one for a time. Finally, this house was the home of Mrs. Stevenson Archer and her children after Archer went to prison for the misappropriation of state funds while he was State Treasurer and Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee.

Edward Ferry first leased and then bought two lots in Dallam's Second Addition (lease 1885, 52/245; title 1889, 65/284). On this property he built three houses: 636 Rock Spring (this one), 628-630 Rock Spring and 635 Roland. This house was built for him by Jacob Bull in 1885. In 1890 he sold it to J. Edwin Webster (69/107) and, moved into the double house next door (628/630 Rock Spring) with his mother, Mrs. Barbara Dunnigan, or into 635 Roland.

Apparently Webster rented the house to Mrs. Archer, for the Harford Democrat noted (January 16, 1891) that "Mrs. Stevenson Archer and children have left 'Hazel Dell' and moved into the house in Dallam's Addition formerly owned and occupied by Edward Ferry". Stevenson Archer went to prison in 1890 and his property was sold at public auction to help pay back the money he stole. As soon as Archer was pardoned and released from prison, the Archers bought the house at 636 Rock Spring. In December 1894 Webster conveyed the property to Estelle Archer, a daughter. At the time Stevenson Archer was in the hospital in Baltimore and his wife Blanche was said also to be ill. Mrs. Archer was born Jane C. Franklin in Franklin, Tennessee. Early in her life she decided she liked the name Blanche better so she came to be called Blanche. The Archers had four childred, Percy F., a colonel in the army, Estelle (Mrs. Noble L. Mitchell), Fanny (Mrs. Benjamin Silver, subsequently Mrs. Strasbaugh), and Blanche, called Daisy.

In 1913 Estelle conveyed the property to her mother under her legal name of Jane C. Archer (142/298). Mrs. Archer died in 1919 and left the house to her only unmarried child, Blanche (will 16/72). Blanche, for many years a Bel Air schoolteacher, died in 1927 and left it to her siblings (will 17/481). Colonel Archer lived there after his retirement, as did his daughter, Mrs. Miller. Fanny Strasbaugh, the surviving child of Stevenson and Blanche Archer, died in 1942, and the executor of her estate, Frank H. Jacobs, Jr., sold the property to Joseph and Katherine Endslow for \$7250 (284/320). The Endslows lived there until 1947 when they sold the house to Miss Francis Daughton (307/429). Mis Daughton lived on the first floor and made the second floor and attic into two apartments. Miss Daughton sold the property to the present owner, Francis Wysong in 1958 (516/523). Mrs. Wysong

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford Democrat

Interviews: Francis Wysong, 25 Sept 1979; S. W. Webster, 25 Sept, Oct, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ___ VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION This property occupies parcel #106 in the Town of Bel Air, 100' x 200' LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES COUNTY STATE COUNTY STATE **II** FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE 5 Cctober 1979 Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian DATE ORGANIZATION 838-8700 Town of Bel Air TELEPHONE STREET & NUMBER 39 Hickory Avenue STATE CITY OR TOWN Mary land Bel Air

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Maryland Historical Trust RETURN TO: The Shaw House, 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 267-1438

because wood shingles were not used in any Bel Air house as an original siding until the bungalow style arrived in Town after World War I. The Town is entirely innocent of shingle style houses. The theory that the house acquired the chimney and the fireplaces after 1890 would handle that.

The interior shows a wide entrance hall on the north side running half the length of the original house. An open string dog-leg staircase rises against the north wall. It has decorative brackets, turned balusters, and the fat turned Victorian newel. The living room is south of the hall. It has a Victorian marble mantel with a round arched opening and cartouche. The fireplace is at an angle in the north west corner of the room. French doors in the south wall lead to a side porch.

The dining room is west of the hall and just enough wider to admit the fireplace, back to back with the living room, also at an angle, this time in the southeast corner of the room. The mantel is of slate, with a round-arched opening which has a cast iron closure with delicate bosses. The kitchen is south of the dining room. The chimney corner shows where the cook-stove originally stood. Off the kitchen in the addition are (south) the enclosed porch and (north) a hall with a bath off of it to the west. The hall leads to a tiny bedroom to the north.

There are four bedrooms and bath on the second story. The bedroom over the back porch was fitted as a kitchen. The attic level has one large room with a tiny powder room and kitchen. The previous owner had the house divided into three flats.

The woodwork throughout the house is reeded with corner blocks carved in concentric circles.

died recently, and Mr. Wysong lives there alone.

From the looks of the house, the Archers altered it by adding the Queen Anne decoration probably sometime after 1894. The shingle siding is also an alteration and may have been done then or later. Shingle siding is relatively uncommon in Bel Air until after the turn of the century. The date of construction (1885) and the interior woodwork, mantels and staircase suggest the Victorian rather than Queen Anne, although the fireplaces are at an angle in corners of the living and dining rooms and the large chimney with recessed panels suggests Queen Anne.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 STATE CIRCLE	SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1484			
SHAW HOUSE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401	NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:			
,	UTM REFERENCES:			
HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET Individual Structure Survey Form	Zone/Easting/Northing			
•	U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:			
	PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Wysong House			
COUNTY: Harford	ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:			
TOWN: Bel Air	Archer House			
LOCATION:	PRESENT USE: private residence			
636 Rock Spring	ORIGINAL USE: same			
CO-FION NAME:	ARCHITECT/ENGONDER: Jacob Bull			
Wysong House	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:			
FUNCTIONAL TYPE:	BOTEDER/ CONTRACTOR:			
OWNER: Francis Wysong	PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:			
ADDRESS: 636 Rock Spring Ave.	Excellent(X) Good()			
Bel Air	Fair() Poor()			
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	THEME: Architecture			
Yes() No() Restricted(X)	STYLE: Vernacular			
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:	DATE BUILT:			
Local(x) State() National() GENERAL DESCRIPTION:	1003			
Structural System				
1. Foundation: Stone(x)Brick()Con	crete()Concrete Block()			
2. Wall Structure	101000 () conc2000 2100n()			
A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam ()Balloon()			
B. Mood Bearing Masonry: Brich	B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick()Stone()Concrete()Concrete Block()			
C. Iron() D. Steel() E. Other:				
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard()Board and Batten()Wood Shingle(x)Shiplap() Novelty()Stucco()Sheet Metal()Aluminum()Asphalt Shingle()				
Brick Veneer()Stone Veneer Bonding Pattern:	Other:			
4. Roof Structure	other.			
· I	()Concrete()			
A. Truss: Wood()Iron()Steel()Concrete() B. Other:				
5. Roof Covering: Slate()Wood Shingle()Asphalt Shingle()Sheet Metal() Built Up()Rolled()Tile()Other:				
6. Engineering Structure:				
7. Other:				
Appendages: Porches(x)Towers()Cupolas()Dormers(x)Chimneys(x)Sheds()Ells(x) Wings()Other:				
Roof Style: Gable(x)Hip()Shed()Flat()Mansard()Gambrel()Jerkinhead()				
Saw Tooth()With Monitor()With Bellcast()With Parapet()With False Front() Other:				
Number of Stories: 2½				
Number of Bays: 3 Entrance Location: Rock Spring				
Approximate Dimensions: 35' x 50'				
THREAT TO STRUCTURE:	LOCAL ATTITUDES:			
No Threat(X)Zoning()Roads() Positive()Negative()				
Development()Deterioration() Mixed() Other: Alteration()Other:				
Alteration(Jother:				

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Daughton had 3 apts back building added? house remodeled in 90's?

This is a Jacob Bull house also where Stevenson Archer's family lived after he went to jail

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



V E

Rockspring

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane()Woodland()Scattered Buildings()
Moderately Built Up()Densely Built Up()
Residential(X)Commercial(X)
Agricultural()Industrial()

Roadside Strip Development()
Other:

Marilynn Larew

RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

25 September 1979

DATE RECORDED:

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY HA-1484

1 NAME				
HISTORIC /	. //			
arche	V House		v	
AND/OR COMMON Wysor	ng House			
2 LOCATION				
			124	
STREET & NUMBER	Keering ave	•	, -:	IOT
CITY TOWN		VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	
Del au		VICINITY OF	COUNTY	
md.			payerd	
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION		•	
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME FRANCE STREET & NUMBER 6 36 CITY, TOWN	,	l.		zip code
CITY. TOWN Bel au		VICINITY OF	Md. 21	014
5 LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION	Liber #:516	
COURTHOUSE.			Falia # 5 7 3	
REGISTRY OF DEEDS	S. ETC. Landa de Carin	by Courthous	e.	
STREET & NUMBER	- M	7		
CITY, TOWN	Main St.		STATE	
CITT, TOWN	Main St. Bel au			
6 REPRESEN	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
DATE		FEDERAL	_STATE _COUNTY _LOCA	NL .
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
CITT, TOTTI				

Darford Democrat. Interviews; Frances	Wyrong, 25 Sept 79; S.W. Welste	n, 25 Sept, Oct., 79.
	y v	
CONTINUE ON SEPARA	ATE SHEET IF NECESSARY	
10 GEOGRAPHICAL I	DATA	
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPER		
,		
	Þ	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCR	IPTION	
This property o	couples paral 1t 106 in the	e Town of Belair,
100'X200'		
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OF	R COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	COUNTY	
	COUNTY	
STATE	COUNTY	
11 FORM PREPARED	BY	
M. Laren, Cham	tectural Hestorian	OATE 79
Town of Belan STREET & DUMBER		738-8700
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
CITY OF TOWN	(_	STATE
Belau		hd.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE: 636 Rock Spring

516/523

29 November 1958

M. Frances Daughton, unmarried

to

Francis Wysong and Mary

307/429

30 July 1947

Joseph S. Endslow & Katherine

to

M. Frances Daughton

284/320

15 September 1942

Frank H. Jacobs, Jr., executor of the

will of Fanny Strasbaugh

to

Joseph S. Endslow & Katherine

\$7250

Fanny Strasbaugh (will 21/85) was

the survivor of the grantees in 248/180

248/180

21 October 1937

Frank H. Jacobs, Jr.

to

Estelle Archer Mitchell, Percy F. Archer

& Fanny H. Strasbaugh

joint tenants with right of survivorship

248/179

21 October 1937

Estelle Archer Mitchell, Percy F. Archer,

Fanny H. Strasbaugh

to

Frank H. Jacobs, Jr.

Straw

the property devised to them by two wills

1. Jane C. Archer, 1919, 16/72

2. Blanche F. Archer, 1927, 17/481

Blanche was a sibling of the grantors. She inherited the property from her mother, Jane

C. Archer ("commonly called Blanche F. Archer").

This Blanche was known as Daisy.

12 November 1913
Estelle Archer
to
Jane C. Archer (Blanche F.)

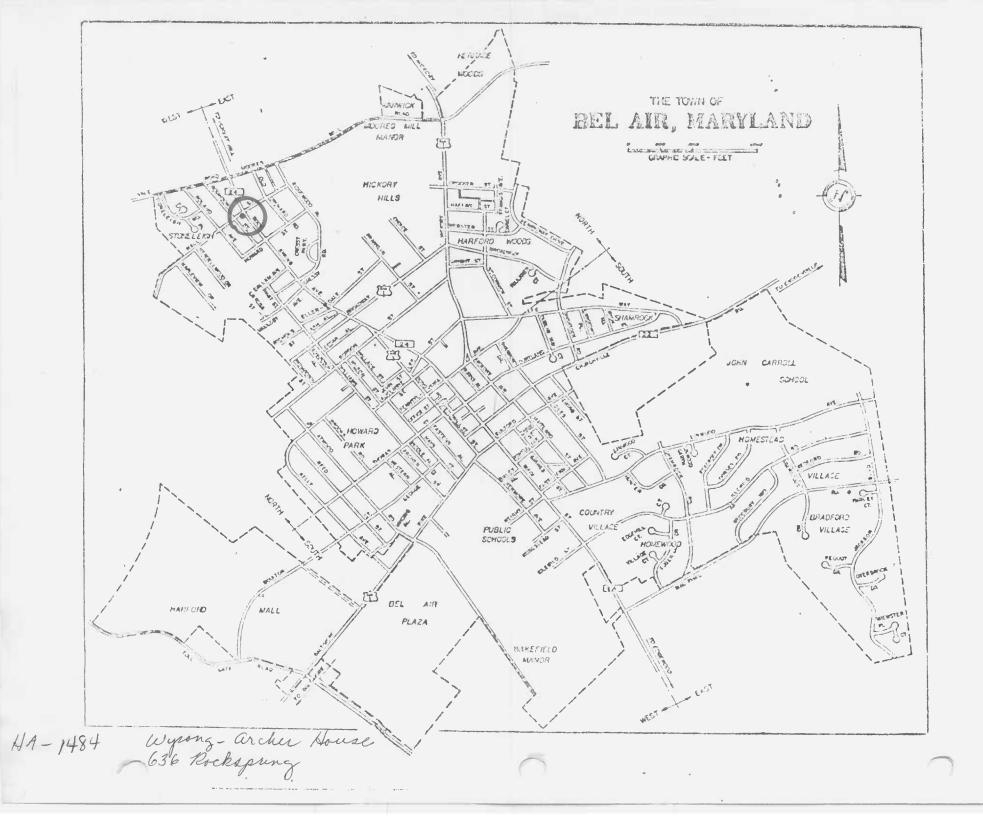
82/370

6 December 1894
J. Edwin Webster
to
Estelle Archer

1 August 1890
Edward Formy & Mary

1 August 1890 Edward Ferry & Mary to J. Edwin Webster part of 65/284 1889 from Mary Dallam

. . . .





archer-wysers House, 636 Rock Spring, Bel air HA. 1484 e de-



n+weller HA-1484 m. Lanus 1479



archer-Wysong House, 636 Bock Spring, Belain